

SB 329 – Generally Revising K-12 Laws

Current MCAs about School District Cooperative Agreements

7-11-101. Short title. This part shall be known and cited as the "Interlocal Cooperation Act".

7-11-102. Purpose. It is the purpose of this part to permit local governmental units to make the most efficient use of their powers by enabling them to cooperate with other local governmental units on a basis of mutual advantage and thereby to provide services and facilities in a manner and pursuant to forms of governmental organization that will accord best with geographic, economic, population, and other factors influencing the needs and development of local communities.

7-11-103. Definition. For the purposes of this part, the term "public agency" shall mean any political subdivision, including municipalities, counties, school districts, and any agency or department of the state of Montana.

7-11-104. Authorization to create interlocal agreements -- issuance of bonds for joint construction -- hiring of teacher, specialist, or superintendent. One or more public agencies may contract with any one or more other public agencies to perform any administrative service, activity, or undertaking or to participate in the provision or maintenance of any public infrastructure facility, project, or service, including the issuance of bonds for the joint construction of a facility under 20-9-404, the hiring of a teacher or specialist under 20-4-201 or a superintendent under 20-4-401, or the hiring of or contracting with any other professional person licensed under Title 37, that any of the public agencies entering into the contract is authorized by law to perform. The contract must be authorized and approved by the governing body of each party to the contract. The contract must outline fully the purposes, powers, rights, obligations, and responsibilities of the contracting parties.

7-11-105. Detailed contents of interlocal agreements. The contract authorized by 7-11-104 must specify the following:

- (1) its duration;
- (2) the precise organization, composition, and nature of any separate legal entity created by the contract;
- (3) the purpose or purposes of the interlocal contract;
- (4) the manner of financing the joint or cooperative undertaking and establishing and maintaining a budget for the undertaking;
- (5) the permissible method or methods to be employed in accomplishing the partial or complete termination of the agreement and, if applicable, for disposing of property upon a partial or complete termination;
- (6) provision for an administrator or a joint board responsible for administering the joint or cooperative undertaking, including representation of the contracting parties on the joint board;
- (7) if applicable, the manner of acquiring, holding, and disposing of real and personal property used in the joint or cooperative undertaking;
- (8) the contracting party responsible for reports and payment of retirement system contributions pursuant to 19-2-506;
- (9) if applicable, the manner of sharing the employment of a teacher or specialist under 20-4-201, a superintendent under 20-4-401, or a professional person licensed under Title 37; and
- (10) any other necessary and proper matters.

7-11-107. Filing of interlocal agreement. The interlocal contract made pursuant to this part must be filed with:

- (1) the county clerk and recorder of the county or counties where the political agencies are situated; and
- (2) the secretary of state.

7-11-108. Authorization to appropriate funds for purpose of interlocal agreement. Any public agency entering into an interlocal contract pursuant to this part may appropriate funds for and may sell, lease, or otherwise give or supply to the administrative board created for the purpose of performance of said contract and may provide such personnel or services therefor as may be within its legal power to furnish.

20-9-701. Definitions of prime and cooperating agencies. For the purposes of an interlocal cooperative agreement, the prime agency shall be the district or other public agency vested with the financial administration of the interlocal cooperative agreement under the terms of such agreement and the cooperating agency shall be any district or public agency other than a prime agency who is a party to the contract creating the interlocal cooperative agreement.

20-9-702. Financial administration of interlocal cooperative agreement. Any district contracting with other districts or other public agencies to establish an interlocal cooperative agreement under the provisions of Title 7, chapter 11, part 1, shall be subject to the provisions of 20-9-701, 20-9-703, and 20-9-704 for the purposes of the financial administration of such agreement.

20-9-703. District as prime agency. (1) When the prime agency is a district, it is authorized and required to establish a nonbudgeted interlocal cooperative fund for the purpose of the financial administration of the interlocal cooperative agreement. All revenues received, including federal, state, or other types of grant payments in direct support of the agreement and the financial support provided by cooperating agencies, shall be deposited in such fund. All financial support of the agreement contributed by a district designated as the prime agency may be transferred to the interlocal cooperative fund from any fund maintained by such district by resolution of the trustees. Any such transfer to the interlocal cooperative fund shall be used to finance those expenditures under the agreement which are comparable to those that are permitted by law to be made out of the fund from which the transfer was made and which are within the final budget for the fund from which the transfer was made. No transfer shall be made from the miscellaneous federal programs fund without the express approval of the superintendent of public instruction.

(2) All expenditures in support of the interlocal cooperative agreement shall be made from the interlocal cooperative fund established by the district which is the prime agency, except that expenditures in support of such agreement may be made from the miscellaneous federal programs fund when the express approval of the superintendent of public instruction is given.

20-9-704. District as cooperating agency. (1) When a district is the cooperating agency, it shall transfer its financial support under the interlocal cooperative contract to the prime agency by district warrant.

(2) The financial support may be provided from any fund maintained by the district. Any such fund utilized for the financial support of an interlocal cooperative agreement shall finance only those expenditures of such agreement that are comparable to those permitted under the statutory provisions creating such fund, and such financial support must be within the currently adopted budget for such fund. No financial support shall be financed from the miscellaneous federal programs fund without the express approval of the superintendent of public instruction.